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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE DIGEST

Western Europe

CID 4 May 1954

West German Bundestag debate reveals waning support for Adenauer's policies: In the opinion of American officials in Bonn, the 29-30 April Bundestag debate on European integration and Saar policies demonstrated a decline in the prestige of Chancellor Adenauer's coalition. Most of Adenauer's supporters shared the doubts of the coalition Free Democrats, who argued that European military and political integration will never be achieved.

According to unconfirmed reports, the chancellor had to threaten dissolution of the cabinet in order to get the rightist coalition parties to approve the compromise resolution supporting the government's European policies.

The American officials also say that the arguments used by the opposition Social Democratic Party suggest that it now considers it politically advantageous to step up opposition to American policies. (C Bonn 3350, 1 May 54)

Comment: It is becoming increasingly apparent that Bundestag patience is wearing thin regarding French delays on EDC. Although Adenauer had trouble getting coalition agreement on a resolution, the position finally adopted on the Saar gives him more latitude for negotiation than the Bundestag resolution of July 1953.

State Dept. review completed

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